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MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SATELLITES, 5 JULY - 25 AUGUST 1953

MILITARY AIRPORT BEING BUILT IN ALBANIA -- Salonica, Makedonia, 12 Aug 53

Belgrade, 11 August (Special Service) -- According to Yugopress, official Yugoslav news agency, a large military airport is under construction in the area west of Berat. A total of 3,000 persons, political hostages and slaves [sic; political prisoners?], are engaged in the construction under the supervision of two officers of the Soviet Army engineer corps.

WORK ON DANUBE BRIDGE SUSPENDED .- Athens, Le Messager d'Athenes, 22 Aug 53

According to reliable information, work on the bridge which will link the Danube cities of Ruse (Bulgaria) and Giurgiu (Rumania) has been suspended. This is not the first time that work has stopped. This time it was caused by the deterioration of the floating crane used on the Bulgarian side of the river.

MILITARY MANEUVERS IN BULGARIA -- Istanbul, Yeni Istanbul, 25 Aug 53

Belgrade, 24 August (Turkish News Agency) -- According to reports reaching here from Bulgaria, much activity by Soviet military specialists in connection with military maneuvers is in progress in the Bulgarian Ministry of Defense. The establishment of garrisons in Nova Zagora, Yambol, Kharmanli, and Maritsa, and the concentration of motorized and infantry units in the Khaskovo area where the 2d Div is stationed, indicated that this area has been selected for the military maneuvers.

Political and military circles are stressing the importance of this area, which is located at the mouth of the Evros River near the Turkish and Greek borders, and state that the border along the Rhodope Mountains has been strengthened by bunkers and machine-gun nests.

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Athens, Le Messager d'Athenes, 22 Aug 53

Bulgarian infantry and motorized units and an entire staff have been set up at Kolarovgrad. Another strategic point where military units have been concentrated for maneuvers is in the region between Dragoman, Slivnitsa, and Breznik, all near Godech.

POLITICAL DIRECTORATE ATTACHED TO BUIGARIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE \cdots Athens, Stratiotika Nea, 5 Jul 53

According to reports of Bulgarian refugees, a special Political Directorate has been attached since Stalin's death to the Bulgarian Ministry of Defense. This directorate, which is completely controlled by Soviet representatives, checks on the activities of the political commissars attached to the Bulgarian Army. The political commissars, who are selected from the most fanatic members of the party and have been trained in the USSR, check in turn on the activities of the Bulgarian Army officers. The directorate also follows the activities of the Bulgarian Minister of Defense Col Gen Petur Panchevski.

NEW MILITARY AIRPORTS BEING BUILT IN GZECHOSLOVAKIA \cdots Athens, Le Messager d'Athenes, 1 Aug 53

New sirports are being built in Czechoslovakia. One of these Airports is located at Na-Brazine /unidentified/ in the Kostomlaty region. The work, which began in the first part of 1953, is being done exclusively by military personnel. Civilians are not admitted into the area. Another airport is being built in the Louny region. When completed it will be one of the most modern in the country. The landing strip will be able to handle jet planes.

MODERN AIRPORT BEING BUILT IN RUMANIA -- Athens, Le Messager d'Athenes, 11 Aug 53

A modern airport is being built by the Soviets at Tatarbunar in Bessarabia. When completed, it will be the largest military airport in southeast Europe.

RUMANIAN MILITARY FORCES INCREASED -- Athens, Stratiotika Nea, 16 Aug 53

According to information from Eucharest, the Rumanian Army has called an increasing number of reservists into active duty since spring 1953. Most of these men are factory workers. It is said that the number of Rumanian Communist forces has reached about 500,000 men. Since last winter they have increased by 10-15 percent, and the army divisions stationed at the frontier are 90 percent on a war footing. According to even more recent reports, the Rumanian military forces will continue to be increased.

RUMANIAN CONSCRIPTS ASSIGNED TO LABOR UNITS -- Athens, Le Messager d'Athenes, 11 Aug 53

Army conscripts from Rumanian bourgeois or kulsk families are put into labor units. Such units have been noted around the Dacube-Black Sea Ganal

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